

Serial No. 10/687,973
Amendment dated June 13, 2005
In Reply of Office Action dated March 14 2005

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 14, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Examiner Rhee is thanked for the courtesies extended undersigned counsel during the personal interview of June 10, 2005.

During that personal interview, Examiner Rhee and undersigned counsel discussed the claim language of various claims to further define the claims over the prior art of record. Undersigned counsel pointed out that published PCT application no. WO 96/02715 to Frech would have taught directly away from Applicant's claimed invention of reinforcing fibers being provided loosely in a reinforcement fiber package.

The undersigned likewise pointed out U.S. Patent No. 5,224,774 to Valle et al. would likewise have taught away from Applicant's fibers being packaged in a substantially mutually parallel manner, as Valle et al. was directed to the provision of a high dispersant to fiber ratio to avoid clumping of fibers

Serial No. 10/687,973
Amendment dated June 13, 2005
In Reply of Office Action dated March 14 2005

within concrete.

Still further, U.S. Patent No. 3,813,848 to Romagnoli not only was argued as being from a different field of endeavor, but was for the packaging of incoherent product that had nothing to do with the packaging of fibers.

Applicant's allowed co-pending application no. 10/687,974 to Dewinter was likewise discussed, and Examiner Rhee was requested to consider such.

In order to reduce the number of issues, Examiner Rhee and undersigned counsel agreed that amended claims 1 and 6, as well as new independent claim 17 set forth below appear to define over the prior art of record and would appear to place the application in condition for allowance.

No final agreement was reached as to patentability.

As to the March 14, 2005 Office Action, please note the following.

First, Examiner Rhee is requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of Applicant's Belgium priority document, and Applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

To overcome the various rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 6 to further

Serial No. 10/687,973
Amendment dated June 13, 2005
In Reply of Office Action dated March 14 2005

define thereover.

Amended independent claims 1 and 6 and new independent claim 17 have been set forth to reduce the number of issues and, it is believed, place the application in condition for allowance as discussed during the personal interview.

Applicant has added new claims 18-21 to provide the varied scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled, as discussed during the interview.

In sum, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance with claims 1-21, as no prima facie case of obviousness of applicant's claimed invention has been made.

Claims 1, 6 and 17, are in independent form.

Examiner Rhee is again requested to confirm in writing that she has considered Applicant's co-pending application no. 10/687,974 to Dewinter, and each of the references cited therein.

It is believed that no fee is due for this submission, 3 claims were cancelled and only one(1) claim over twenty (20) was added; and there are only three(3) independent claims. Should that determination be incorrect, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 19-2105, and notify the undersigned in due course.

Serial No. 10/687,973
Amendment dated June 13, 2005
In Reply of Office Action dated March 14 2005

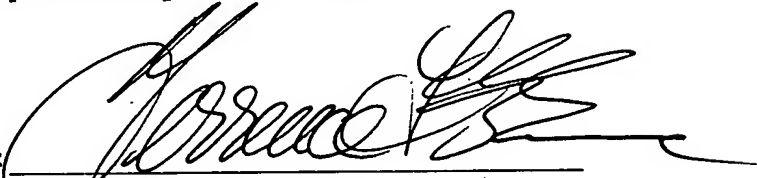
Examiner Rhee agreed to telephone Terrence Brown at 703-684-5600, if the application is not in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

June 13, 2005

By:



Terrence L.B. Brown
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 32,685

SHLESINGER, ARKWRIGHT & GARVEY LLP
1420 King Street, Suite 600
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-5600
sb